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**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

The following listing of claims supersedes all prior versions and listings of claims in this application:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method of retrieval of stored images stored with metadata for at least some of the stored images, the stored metadata comprising at least one entry specifying (a) a part of the respective image[[:]], (b) another stored image[[:]], and (c) a measure of the degree of similarity between the specified part and the specified other stored image[[:]], the method comprising using a computer to perform the steps of:

- i. displaying one or more images;
- ii. receiving input from a user ~~indicative of~~ specifying a part of at least one of the displayed images;
- iii. determining measures of interest for each of a plurality of non-displayed stored images specified by [[the]] said metadata for the displayed ~~image~~ (s) image(s), as a function of ~~the similarity measure (s)~~ (a) said stored measures of the degree of similarity and (b) the relationship between the user input and the respectively corresponding part specified;

iv. selecting from those non-displayed stored images, on the basis of the determined measures of interest, further images for display.

2. (Currently Amended) A method according to [[Claim]] claim 1 in which the receiving of input from a user is performed by means operable to observe movement of the user's eye.

3. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim [[1]] 2 in which the user input identifies image locations and associated attention durations, and each measure of interest is the sum of individual measures for each identified location that is within a predetermined distance of a specified part, each said individual measure being a function of the attention duration that is associated with the identified location and the similarity measure that is associated with the specified part.

4. (Original) A method according to claim 3 in which each individual measure is the product of the duration and the similarity measure.

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5. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 in which the specified parts of the images are points within the images.

6. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 in which the specified parts of the images are regions thereof.

7. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 in which steps (ii) to (iv) are repeated at least once.

8. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 further including the initial computer-implemented steps of:

receiving one or more external images;

generating said metadata in respect of the external image(s); and

displaying the external image(s).

9. (New) A computer-implemented method of retrieval of stored digital images from a database comprising use of a computer to perform the steps of:

i. displaying one or more digital images from the database;

ii. receiving input from a user indicative of part of the displayed image(s);

iii. determining measures of interest for each of a plurality of non-displayed stored images from the database, said images specified by metadata for the displayed image(s); and

iv. selecting from those non-displayed stored images, on the basis of the determined measures, further images for display;

wherein:

the user input is received by gaze-tracking means operable to observe movement of the user's eye and to output signals ( $x_g$ ,  $y_g$ ) indicating positions of fixation of the eye within the displayed images(s);

the stored images are stored with metadata comprising at least one entry specifying (a) a part of the respective image, (b) another stored image, and (c) a measure ( $S_{abi}$ ) of the degree of similarity between the specified part and the specified other stored image; and

each said measure of interest ( $I_{ab}$ ) for a non-displayed stored image is automatically determined as a function of the measures of the degree of similarity ( $S_{abi}$ ) in respect to parts of the displayed image indicated by the signals ( $x_g$ ,  $y_g$ ) from the gaze tracking means.

10. (New) A method according to claim 9 in which the gaze tracking means also identifies associated durations of fixation ( $t_g$ ), and each measure of interest ( $I_{ab}$ ) is a function also of the durations of fixation associated with the indicated parts of the image.

11. (New) A method according to claim 10 in which each measure of interest ( $I_{ab}$ ) is the sum of individual measures for each position of fixation that is within a predetermined distance ( $r$ ) of a specified part, each said individual measure being a function of the duration of fixation ( $t_g$ ) that is associated with the position of fixation and the similarity measure ( $S_{abi}$ ) that is associated with the specified part.

12. (New) A method according to claim 11 in which each individual measure is the product of the duration of fixation ( $t_g$ ) and the measure of the degree of similarity ( $S_{abi}$ ).

13. (New) A method according to claim 9 in which the specified parts of the images are points within the images.

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14. (New) A method according to claim 9 in which the specified parts of the images are regions thereof.

15. (New) A method according to claim 9 in which steps (ii) to (iv) are repeated at least once.

16. (New) A method according to claim 9, further including the initial steps of:  
adding one or more external images to the database; and  
generating said metadata in respect of the external image(s).